

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A tactile-encoded combination lock comprising:

a. a lock housing having an exterior wall;

b. a combination lock mechanism within said lock housing, said lock mechanism including a rotatable dial shaft having one end interconnected to said mechanism and the other end passing through said wall and extending exteriorly from said housing;

c. a closure piece having coupling means, in which said coupling means is connected to said lock mechanism in a locked position, and in which said coupling means is detached from said lock mechanism in an unlocked position;

d. a circular dial, said dial having an inner side and an outer side, a central portion of said inner side being interconnected to said other end of said dial shaft, said outer side including a tactile dial index on an outer periphery thereof, said dial overlying a portion of said exterior wall;

e. a tactile registration index on said exterior wall of said housing, said registration index being arranged outwardly in spaced relation from said outer periphery of said dial; and,

f. at least two tactile rotational position indices on said exterior wall of said housing, said rotational position indices being arranged outwardly in spaced relation from said outer periphery of said dial, said rotational position indices further being arranged in pre-determined angles of rotation from said registration index.

2. A combination lock as in claim 1 in which said tactile registration index is located at a 0 degree rotational position.
3. A combination lock as in claim 2 in which said pre-determined angles of rotation are at least 10 degrees clockwise and at least 10 degrees counter-clockwise from said tactile registration index.
- 5 4. A combination lock as in claim 1 in which said housing and said closure piece are sized and configured to fit over both sides of a trigger guard of a gun.
5. A combination lock as in claim 4 in which said coupling means comprises a coupling rod extending from said closure piece, said rod having a plurality of notches for engagement by said lock mechanism.
- 10 6. A combination lock as in claim 5 further including a stabilization rod extending from said closure piece, and in which said housing includes a receiver for an end of said stabilization rod.
7. A combination lock as in claim 1 in which said closure piece comprises a flexible cable, one end of said cable being attached to said housing, the other end of said cable having said coupling means detachably connected to said lock mechanism.
- 15 8. A combination lock as in claim 7 further including a plurality of notches in said coupling means.

9. A tactile-encoded combination lock comprising:

- a. a lock housing having an exterior wall;
- b. a closure piece having coupling means extending therefrom;
- c. a combination lock mechanism within said lock housing, said lock mechanism including
- 5 a coupling means receiver;
- d. a circular dial, said dial having an inner side and an outer side, said inner side being operably interconnected to said lock mechanism, said outer side including a tactile dial index on an outer periphery thereof, said dial overlying a portion of said exterior wall;
- e. a tactile registration index on said exterior wall of said housing, said registration index
- 10 being arranged outwardly in spaced relation from said outer periphery of said dial; and,
- f. at least two tactile rotational position indices on said exterior wall of said housing, said rotational position indices being arranged outwardly in spaced relation from said outer periphery of said dial, said rotational position indices further being arranged in pre-determined angles of rotation from said registration index.

15 10. A combination lock as in claim 9 in which said closure piece comprises a U-shaped rod, one end of said rod being restrained within said housing but allowing rotatable and axial movement, the other end of said rod including said coupling means, said coupling means being selectively locked within or removable from said coupling means receiver.

11. A combination lock as in claim 9 in which said closure piece comprises a plate having a planar

20 inner side, and in which said coupling means comprises a coupling rod extending perpendicularly from

said inner side, said coupling rod having a plurality of notches on an outer end thereof, and further including a stabilization rod also extending from said inner side, said stabilization rod being substantially parallel to and in spaced relation from said coupler rod.

12. A combination lock as in claim 11 in which said housing includes a receiver for an end of said
5 stabilization rod.

13. A combination lock as in claim 9 in which said closure piece comprises a cable, said cable having one end affixed to said housing and the other end including said coupling means.

14. A combination lock as in claim 13 in which said coupling means includes a plurality of notches.

15. A combination lock as in claim 9 in which said tactile dial index comprises a depressed region
10 including a nub in the center thereof.

16. A combination lock as in claim 9 in which said tactile registration index comprises a pair of protruding nubs arranged in vertically stacked relation.

17. A combination lock as in claim 9 including a plurality of said rotational position indices located at pre-determined angles of rotation on either side of the registration index at 45°, 90°, 180°, 225°,
15 270°, and 315°.

18. A combination lock as in claim 9 in which said tactile registration index is located at a 0 degree rotational position.

19. A combination lock as in claim 9 in which said pre-determined angles of rotation are at least 10 degrees clockwise and at least 10 degrees counter-clockwise from said tactile registration index.